

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2194
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: CREATION OF A NEW EXTREME LEFT POLITICAL PARTY

SUMMARY. A FOUR-DAY CONGRESS IN ROME HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A NEW POLITICAL PARTY ON THE EXTREME LEFT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM. FORMED WITH THE AIM OF UNIFYING ALL THE FORCES OF THE NEW LEFT IN OPPOSITION TO THE PARTIES OF THE TRADITIONAL LEFT (COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS), SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE NEW POLITICAL GROUPING HAS A SUFFICIENTLY BROAD IDEOLOGICAL HOMOGENEITY TO PERMIT IT TO OVERCOME THE TYPE OF CENTRIFUGAL PRESSURES WHICH HAVE UNTIL NOW PLAGUED THE EXTREME LEFT. THE NEW PARTY WILL HAVE ITS FIRST ELECTORAL TEST IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MAY AND JUNE INVOLVING APPROXIMATELY 12 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE. END SUMMARY.

1. A FOUR-DAY CONSTITUENT CONGRESS IN ROME, WHICH
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CONCLUDED ON APRIL 16, HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROLETARIAT PARTY (DP), A NEW POLITICAL FORMATION ON THE EXTREME LEFT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM. THE NAME CHOSEN FOR THE PARTY IS THE SAME THAT WAS USED BY THE VARIOUS EXTREME-LEFT ITALIAN POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN PRESENTING UNIFIED SLATES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS IN 1975 AND FOR THE NATIONAL

ELECTIONS IN 1976. (IN 1976, THE DP SUCCEEDED IN ELECTING SIX CANDIDATES TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WHILE REMAINING UNITED AS A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, THE SIX DEPUTIES ARE NOW DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS IDEOLOGICALLY.)

2. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES AT THE CONGRESS CAME FROM THREE EXTREME-LEFT POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. THEY ARE: A MINORITY FACTION OF PDUP-MINIFESTO, A MAJORITY FACTION OF AVANGUARDIA OPERAIA, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS, A MAOIST-ORIENTED GROUP. IN FORMING THE DP, THE ORGANIZERS HOPE ALSO TO ATTRACT SUPPORT FROM LOTTA CONTINUEA AND OTHER EXTREME-LEFT GROUPS TO WHOM THEY INTEND TO MAKE AVAILABLE POSITIONS ON THEIR ELECTORAL LISTS.

3. AS A POLITICAL PARTY, THE DP IS INTENDED TO COAGULATE AROUND ITSELF ALL THE FORCES OF QUOTE THE NEW LEFT END QUOTE AND TO OPPOSE THE PARTIES OF QUOTE THE HISTORIC LEFT (COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS) END QUOTE WHO ARE GUILTY OF HAVING ABANDONED REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES. IN FORMULATING THEIR POLITICAL PROGRAM AND WITH THE MORO KIDNAPPING IN MIND, THE DP FOUNDERS HAVE REJECTED BOTH THE UTILIZATION OF TERRORIST TACTICS AND THE MEANS BY WHICH THE STATE IS RESPONDING TO THIS CHALLENGE. AS THE REVOLUTIONARY OPPOSITION, THE DP INTENDS TO RESPOND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CHARGES THAT ITS ELECTORAL PRESENCE WEAKENS THE TRADITIONAL LEFT BY ARGUING THAT THE SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS ARE NOW WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHO REPRESENT THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL ENEMY. DP LEADERS RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR TASK WILL BE DIFFICULT SINCE THEY ARE ATTEMPTING QUOTE TO CONSTRUCT A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION IN A PHASE THAT IS NOT REVOLUTIONARY END QUOTE. IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE NEW POLITICAL GROUP IS PROFOUNDLY OPPOSED TO TRADITIONAL WESTERN POLICIES WHILE IT ALSO DOES NOT HESITATE TO CRITICIZE SHARPLY POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION. IN REALITY, ITS FOREIGN POLICY IS ORIENTED TOWARDS THE SO-CALLED THIRD WORLD, AND, AS A SYMBOL OF ITS ORIENTATION, IT HOSTED AT ITS FOUNDING CONGRESS DELEGATIONS FROM ERITREAN, PALESTINIAN AND SAHARAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

4. SOME OBSERVERS WHO FOLLOWED THE CONGRESS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE NEW POLITICAL GROUPING HAS A SUFFICIENTLY BROAD IDEOLOGICAL HOMOGENEITY TO PERMIT IT TO OVERCOME THE TYPE OF CENTRIFUGAL PRESSURES WHICH HAVE UNTIL NOW PLAGUED THE EXTREME LEFT. NEVERTHELESS, THIS

SECTOR OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM WILL STILL REMAIN
DIVIDED AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM. THE PDUP-MANIFESTO
MAJORITY WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT A POLITICAL FORCE,
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME
OF ITS EXPONENTS ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE TOWARDS AN
EVENTUAL RECONCILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.
ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE THE NUMEROUS STUDENT AND AUTO-
NO OUS MOVEMENTS WHICH HAVE SPRUNG UP IN THE LAST FEW
YEARS AND WHICH HAVE TO DATE NOT ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES
DIRECTLY WITH A POLITICAL PARTY. THE DP WILL HAVE ITS
FIRST ELECTORAL TEST IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS TO
BE HELD IN MAY AND JUNE INVOLVING APPROXIMATELY 12 PERCENT
OF THE ELECTION. IF THE PARTY CAN SUCCEED IN ESTAB-
LISHING AND MAINTAINING A COHERENT IDEOLOGICAL POSITION
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TO THE LEFT OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), IT
CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT IT WILL BEGIN TO CUT INTO AT
LEAST A FRINGE OF THE PCI'S TRADITIONAL ELECTORAL
BASE, PARTICULARLY AS THE PCI WORKS MORE ACTIVELY TO
ATTRACT MIDDLE-CLASS VOTERS.GARDNER

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